



Insanity in the Outdoors

The only real cure for "Wild Turkey Fever" is to spend more springtime in the woods

As I climbed over yet another ridge, the weight of my clothes loaded with way too much turkey hunting gear slowed me down. I stood motionless for a minute or so to catch my breath. As I stood in the dark, an eerie silence filled my ears. I looked around in the early pre-dawn dark and found the perfect hunter's tree. This oak tree with wide branches had obviously stood on the edge of that ridge for a long time. Its seed shoot could possibly have pushed through the soil during the Civil War.

I placed a small seat against the tree trunk, sat down and then leaned back to rest my back and head against thick

bark. While patiently waiting for dark to give way to light I pondered the reasons I was there. I'm pretty sure I solved many of the world's problems, too, though I seriously doubt if anyone but me will ever know it. That morning, like many before, I questioned my sanity. Was it really worth it? Why in the world would someone put so much effort into an unsure thing like trying to bag a wild turkey?

My turkey hunting efforts began weeks before. I spent a considerable amount of money, time and fuel updating my gear, talking to friends and scouting. Then I studied maps from Google Earth trying to locate just the right spot. I'd made several trips to the shooting range to practice and to test the latest ammo. I'd driven my wife and kids absolutely crazy practicing my turkey calling skills. All my gear was laid out in the basement for inventory before I neatly placed it back in my vest. I'd purchased my permits. I'd spent hours reading the latest magazines trying to glean some secret I could use to my benefit. Finally, after weeks of prep, I decided I was ready. I went to bed around 1 a.m. knowing that the two hours of sleep I'd get would not be enough.

When the alarm on my phone sounded at 3 a.m. it confirmed that I



Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish, and turkey hunting is a great way to discover and enjoy nature.

Connecting with turkey hunting

MDC connects people with nature, and the following classes offer the lore and skills for wild turkey hunting. Look at event listings for our Kansas City area MDC education sites inside this newsletter for more information on times and requirements.

- **Introduction to Turkey Hunting**
Lake City Shooting Range
March 14
- **Spring Turkey Hunting Clinic**
Parma Woods Shooting Range
March 16
- **Full Strut, All About Turkeys**
Discovery Center
March 16
- **Introduction to Turkey Hunting**
Burr Oak Woods Nature Center
March 30

was in no way sane. I had a bad, bad case of "Wild Turkey Fever." It's a disease, I'm afraid, with only one cure. The cure is only achieved by spending copious amounts of time in the woods looking and listening as springtime brings nature alive. Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish, and turkey hunting is a great way to discover and enjoy nature.

If you have a case of turkey hunting fever, or if you want to catch the fever, MDC can help. Try attending our workshops, classes and programs this spring. (See box at left.)

Oh, and was my preparation and pre-dawn hike worth it? You bet it was. I knew that the first time I heard a turkey gobble as sunrise revealed the spring woods beauty.

— Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday. (March 8, 22 and April 5, 19)

Maple Sugaring

March 2 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

Registration required; began February 1 (families) In our culture with a supermarket in every neighborhood it is truly magical to be able to make something delicious to eat from a liquid flowing out of a tree. Savor this wonder of nature by learning how to tap trees, collect sap and make delicious syrup from native trees.

Feathered Friends

March 9 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

Registration required

(families with children ages 4+)

Just who are those small feathered friends that you see in your yard? Join a naturalist to learn about the birds that are local to this area and what we can do to help them survive. Enjoy their antics up close from the bird viewing room. Each family will construct a wren house to take home with them.

Bird Hikes of Spring!

March 12 • Tuesday • 9–10 AM

March 20 • Wednesday • 9–10 AM

March 28 • Thursday • 9–10 AM

Registration required (adults; ages 10+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Let the tweet, twitter and trills of local and returning birds lure you outside for a successful bird hike with a Master Naturalist. Spring is a great time to see local and returning birds and to capture a glimpse of those birds that only briefly pass us by.

Babes in the Woods:

Pine Forest Play

March 12 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months)

The pine forest is a magical place to romp and discover with your little one. From the sweet smells to the softly muted sounds, you and your child will delight in these unique outdoor sensations.

Conservation Kids Club:

Finding the Way

March 12 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Have you ever been lost? Explorers use maps and compasses to make sure they can find their way. Join us for some great fun as we learn how to read topographical maps and use a compass to keep us on track!

Little Acorns: Bald is Beautiful

March 13 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

I'm talking about the bald eagle, of course! This majestic bird isn't bald though, so why the name? What other fascinating facts will we learn about the regal eagle? Let's discover more together!

Home School: Nature Stewardship

March 13 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for ages

6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

Nature needs our help, but not how you might think. Stewardship can be as simple as recycling our homework paper when we are done with it. We will discuss and implement ways we can affect nature through stewardship and by our actions. Classes will be held outdoors because we are putting our thoughts into action.

Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale

March 16 • Saturday • 8 AM–12:45 PM

Registration required; began Feb. 1 (adults)

Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources - native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on bird and butterfly gardening, native vine tipis and trellises, wild edibles, treescaping and many more. **The Native Plant Sale is open from 12:45–1:15 PM for workshop participants and 1:15–3:45 PM for the public.**

Wild Edibles: Spring Tonic

March 19 • Tuesday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

The gathering season is here! Join in on the fun as we discover what early spring greens can be foraged to create delicious and savory teas. This program includes a hike.

Dance of the Woodcock

March 21 • Thursday • 7–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 5+; children must be accompanied by an adult)

There is magic in the night! Join in on the fun as we listen for the distinct call of the American Woodcock. With a little luck on our side, we may be one of the chosen few who have witnessed the courtship dance of this fascinating elusive bird of the forest.

Hippity Hoppity

March 23 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

This time of year is all about white, fuzzy bunnies. Hop in to learn about their wild relative, the native cottontail rabbit and what you should do if you discover a nest of them in your backyard!

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 30 • Saturday • 10 AM–12:30 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

Spring is here and the toms are strutting. That can only mean one thing to some people: spring turkey season is here! For more than 50 years, Missourians have enjoyed pursuing these large elusive birds. Join us as we explore the basics of turkey hunting, including locations, equipment, techniques and more.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

March 30 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

April 27 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

Bird Hikes of Spring!

April 3 • Wednesday • 8:30–10:30 AM

April 11 • Thursday • 8:30–10:30 AM

April 19 • Friday • 8:30–10:30 AM

April 23 • Tuesday • 4–6 PM

April 30 • Tuesday • 8:30–10:30 AM

Registration required (adults; ages 10+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)
See March program description on opposite page for more details.

Frog and Toad

April 6 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required

(families with children ages 4+)

In the beloved books, classics for young readers, Frog and Toad are friends. In nature they may share a pond or a puddle, but each is unique in their lifestyle. Step into their world to see these characters come alive as we search for the frogs and toads that live here and see just how they grow up.

Area Closed for Youth Managed Turkey Hunt

April 6 & 7 • Saturday & Sunday • 7 AM–1 PM

Public Notice (all visitors) Area is closed to pedestrian traffic of any kind within the conservation area during the managed hunt.

Babes in the Woods: Habitat Hike

April 9 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months)

The Habitat Trail has unique habitats to find and explore. We will hike our full hour together, but the interesting destinations along the trail will be worth the extra effort. You will need a stroller that can handle a gravel trail.

Conservation Kids Club: Discover Spring Fishing!

April 9 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Kids! Don't miss out on this sure cure for fishing fever! We will share the basics of fishing with you, provide equipment and worms and then let you try your luck snagging the big one at the Burr Oak Woods Education Pond.

Little Acorns: Bears in Missouri

April 10 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Believe it or not we have bears in Missouri! What do they like to eat? Where are they living? Will we run into one in the woods? Come find out the answers to these beary important questions!

Home School: Pollinators

April 10 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

Many amazing insects and a few other animals are busy pollinating native plants and crops this spring. Discover how they buzz, float, fly and scurry around to do this very important job. Who knows, you may become a pollinator, too!

Wild Edibles:

The Plants of Lewis and Clark

April 19 • Friday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

We all know that the landscape of Missouri today is very different than the land that Lewis and Clark explored. What plants did they gather to eat along the way? Are any of those plants still around today?

Owl Prowl

April 20 • Saturday • 7:30–9 PM

Registration required

(families with children ages 7+)

Bring your family to learn about the amazing owls of Missouri and discover the important role they play in the web of life. We will dissect real owl pellets and prowl the night searching for these nocturnal predators.



Learn to canoe safely at the Women's Spring Fling Workshop

Discover Nature: Women's Spring Fling Workshop

April 26–28

Registration required (women; girls ages 14–17 are welcome to attend with an adult woman participant)

The Discover Nature Women's Spring Fling Workshop provides a safe and friendly environment where women experience hands-on Outdoor Skills Training, such as archery, shooting sports, canoeing, outdoor cooking and much more by a team of long term professionals. Courses will be held at a conference center in the Kansas City metropolitan area. For a brochure and additional information contact Lisa LaCombe @ 816-655-6263 ext. 232 or lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov

Reptiles in our Backyard

April 27 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Have you ever found a turtle strolling through your yard? How about a snake? Missouri is home to many species of turtles, lizards and snakes. Some have even adapted to life near people! Join us as we explore the reptiles around us. We will meet some up close and personal inside and then head out to search for them in their native habitat.

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Teens and .22 Cal

March 2 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (ages 11–17)

The course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics to be covered will include safety, parts of a .22 rifle, marksmanship and much more.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

March 9 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Tired of trap shooting and looking for a quicker game? Why not try skeet shooting?

Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Discover Nature:

Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 14 · Thursday · 5–9:30 PM

Registration required (all ages) For the novice turkey hunter who would like to know more about hunting the elusive Eastern Wild Turkey. We will discuss how to scout for turkeys, where they roost, use of blinds and decoys and patterning your shotgun properly. There will be range time so bring your shotgun and favorite turkey load.

Women's Firearm Safety–Phase I

March 16 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

April 20 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (women; ages 18+)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship, and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

Discover Nature:

Introduction to Double Trap

March 23 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 16+)

This is an advanced shooting sport geared towards shooters who are accomplished at shooting American Trap and would like to challenge themselves. Instruction will be on proper stance, choke selection and swing through. Special class requirements: only double barreled and semi-automatic shotguns.

Patterning Your Shotgun

April 3 · Wednesday · 5–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Patterning your shotgun is an important part of turkey hunting that is often overlooked. We'll discuss the principles of how to use different turkey shot shells and chokes to achieve the most effective pattern for your shotgun.

NRA Basic Shotgun–First Step

April 5 · Friday · 5–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

NRA First Step program is well known as a great place to learn about your shotgun. The class is taught by NRA instructors with NRA materials. Special class requirements: Remington 870, 12 gauge shotguns only, they will not be provided for this program.

NRA Basic Rifle–First Step

April 12 · Friday · 5–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

NRA First Step is a good way to get a basic understanding of a rifle as well as the basic understanding of marksmanship. Special class requirements: Ruger 10/22, .22 cal rifles only.

Spring in the outdoors

Spring has sprung! It's time to shake off those winter blues and get outside to fill your lungs with fresh, clean air, stretch your legs with a hike in the woods and enjoy the sunshine.

What fun things can you do once you get outside? Well, think about this exciting outdoor activity: case up those guns you've cleaned over the winter and head out to the range. Lake City has a variety of shooting sports available. Trap and skeet, rifle and pistol and archery ranges are all on site. The family will enjoy the time away from the house and it will give everyone a chance to sharpen their shooting skills.

Missouri is a great place to enjoy nature. Warm spring sunshine is at hand. More mushrooms will soon appear. You can visit a wetland or lake and watch the spring migration northward of ducks and geese. It's time to go fishing at our local lakes. Visit the shooting ranges and nature centers to learn about what classes are offered to help you enjoy the outdoors this spring and summer. Step outside and enjoy.

–Judy Farnsworth, Range Staff

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Give Bow Hunter Education a try

It's that time of year again that Parma Woods will begin offering the Missouri Bow Hunter Education Classes. These are the classes you will need to have completed to apply for many of the urban managed hunts on public park land in the Kansas City metro area. This certification also meets the standards of most other states as well. Students will learn what it means to be a responsible and ethical hunter. They will participate in hands-on activities to assist in skill building. They will learn about archery equipment, tree stand safety, wildlife conservation and more. All in all, it's a good class that all responsible bow hunters should take. But don't wait till it's too late. To find a class and get enrolled, log on to www.registered.com/programs/missouri



This spring, Parma Woods will begin offering the Missouri Bow Hunter Education Classes.

Hunter Education

March 5–7 • Tuesday–Thursday • 6–9 PM

Online registration only at

<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/9720>

(Ages 11+; ages 11–13 must be accompanied by an adult)

Originally designed to reduce hunting accidents, today's Hunter Education classes provide much more. The program meets the original goals of reducing hunting accidents, but also produces safe, knowledgeable, responsible and involved hunters.

Discover Nature: Backpacking for Beginners

March 9 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (All ages)

Backpacking is a great way to discover nature. Newcomers are often overwhelmed and intimidated with all the gear and information available. Join our experienced instructor as we take a look at what it takes to enjoy backpacking today.

Spring Turkey Hunting Clinic

March 16 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (Ages 11+)

Hunting the wild turkey offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to spend time enjoying the beauty of nature in spring. Attend this day long workshop to learn what you need to know to be successful at putting your tag on a turkey.

Walleye Fishing Seminar

March 22 • Friday • 6–9 PM

Registration required (Ages 11+)

The walleye presents a challenging angling opportunity. Though generally thought of as a northern fish, Missouri is home to a lot of walleyes. Attend this seminar to learn tips and tricks that will improve your angling skills.

Explore Bowhunting

April 3, 10, 17 & 24 • Wednesday • 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (Ages 8+)

The **Explore Bowhunting** program is designed in a way that both youth and adults can learn the basic skills needed to become a successful bow hunter. This four part program includes 20 hands-on activities to teach you about animal behavior, animal calls, animal tracking, archery, how to get



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

close to wildlife and more. Participants should be able to attend all sessions and youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Basic Archery

April 18 • Thursday • 1–4 PM

Registration required (All ages)

Shooting archery is a great way to spend an afternoon in nature. Join our trained instructors for some basic archery instruction and hands on practice shooting archery. Topics include shooting fundamentals, equipment, safety and more. Youth should be accompanied by an adult.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM

1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM

Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Choose Your Own Adventure

March 2 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Missouri is home to a variety of landscapes each waiting to be explored by you. Together we will learn what is involved in creating an experience sure to connect you to the great outdoors. Site choice, gear selection and planning are all important aspects of a great trip. Join us as we cover these topics and more in preparation for an actual outdoor experience in May.

Nature Nuts Storytime

March 2 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

March 16 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

No registration required (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Nature in Your Neighborhood Art Competition Awards Night

March 5 · Tuesday · 5:30–8 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Join us for a celebration of nature as seen through the eyes of area students. View student artwork portraying nature in their different neighborhoods, talk with some of the artists then stick around for the awards ceremony.

Junkyard Art

March 5 · Tuesday · 5:30–7:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Bring your creative spirit to a program that is all about trash. Enjoy the experience of turning various items of junk into wildlife art. You will be helping to keep trash out of the landfill while leaving with a unique work of art.

Scout Program

March 5 · Tuesday · Evening

April 2 · Tuesday · Evening

Registration required (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or Wendy.Parrett@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday of the month.

Full Strut

March 16 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Do you have turkey fever? Hunting wild turkey in Missouri can be a successful experience with the right knowledge.



Learning how to call in a gobbler, proper decoy placement and what to look for when scouting are just a few things you will discover. There will be activities for all ages to enjoy. Gobble Gobble!

W-ELK-Come Home!

March 19 · Tuesday

6:30 PM Reception; 7 PM Program

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Elk were found throughout Missouri prior to European settlement. Historical accounts indicate that they were likely extirpated from the state by 1865. Prompted by citizen requests, MDC conducted a feasibility study in 2000 on the reintroduction of elk. Many



questions and concerns were raised. Would elk transfer disease to livestock or other wildlife? Would they remain in the area where released or cause problems for people living

in and around Peck Ranch? Does Missouri still have a suitable habitat for the elk? What would it take to get elk from Kentucky to Missouri? Between the time of the first studies and community meetings to the actual release of relocated elk at Peck Ranch a great story was written. Join us for the third and final Discover Missouri Mammals presentation and hear the tales from people who were actually involved. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Water – Is It Truly Everywhere?

April 6 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Did you know that no new water is being made? The water we have now is all there is or will be. But water is continually going through stages and in some of those stages is unavailable to us. Join us for a day devoted to the exploration of our relationship to water. Learn about the water cycle and how we impact this important natural event. Information will be provided for the construction and placement of rain barrels and rain gardens. We'll make rain gauges to keep track of how much rain we have. This activity packed day will be fun and educational for all ages.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281

Nature Nuts Storytime

April 6 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM
April 20 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM
No registration required (ages 3–8; all welcome)
Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Wildflower Walk

April 16 • Tuesday • 5:30–7:30 PM
Walk-in (adults)
Early spring is a good time to visit the Discovery Center wildflower gardens. Discover nature with a guided walk, on the hour, through the landscape and meet many of Missouri's spring "beauties." Learn about the best places in Kansas City for planning your own wildflower walk.

Fishing Skills

April 20 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)
Has it been awhile since you went fishing? Brush up on your fishing skills and possibly learn some new techniques. Today you can practice casting, baiting a hook and learning to tie a fly in preparation for fishing trips.

Take a Kid Fishing Day

April 20 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Registration required (ages 5+; ages 16–64 must have a valid Missouri fishing license to fish)
Are the kids hounding you to take them fishing? Here is your chance to satisfy them and leave the details to us. We'll spend the morning learning basic skills like casting, baiting a hook, using a lure and knot tying.



Then, we'll spend the afternoon fishing at a nearby pond. All fishing gear will be provided but you will need your own transportation to the pond.

Nature & Arts Summer Camp

Monday • July 29–Friday • August 2
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. each day
Before and after care available beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.
Registration required (Ages 9–12) Camp and the extended care are both free of charge.

Nature and the arts go together like burgers and fries. They are great alone, but pair them together and you get something special. In this camp you will explore the plants and animals that call KC home and learn different artistic techniques to "capture" nature in the neighborhood. You will visit a local state park, conservation area and more. The week will culminate with a group art installation at the Discovery Center.

Applications will be available April 1 at the Discovery Center and on our website, <http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter>. Applications will be accepted through April 30. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 7.

Nature and Art



The Nature in Your Neighborhood art contest challenged Missouri's Kansas City area kindergarten through 12th grade students to illustrate what nature is like in their neighborhood.

Exhibit Opening and Awards Night Tuesday, March 5

- 5:00–8:00 PM • Student artwork on display
- 5:30–6:30 PM • Artists available for questions
- 6:30–7:30 PM • Awards Presentation

Student artwork will be on display from March 5 through April 25, 2013.

Full Strut

Today Missouri has a healthy population of wild turkeys, but that was not always the case. In the 1960's there were only about 3,000 turkeys in Missouri. Most of them were confined to remote Ozark regions. Thanks to restoration efforts through the Missouri Department of Conservation all 114 counties have huntable populations of wild turkey today. With a month to go till opening day of the spring turkey season now is the time to sharpen your skills and prepare for a successful hunt.

Understanding a turkey's senses is important when hunting. Wild turkeys have a keen sense of sight and simply by moving their neck they gain a 360 degree field of view. Along with their excellent vision turkeys can pinpoint sounds up to a mile away. Due to these sharp senses it is important to scout out the area you are going to hunt several weeks in advance. You also need to be in full camouflage and limit your movements and noise.

Along with staying concealed, a good turkey hunter is able to utilize decoys and calls properly to encourage a gobbler to come into shooting range. There are a wide variety of calls that can be used when turkey hunting. A good locator call is the crow or owl, which results in turkeys gobbling. Being able to make the yelp call is important in the spring. The yelp is the basic turkey communication sound and is often used by the hen to communicate with a gobbler during mating season. Practicing your calling before you hunt will help ensure a successful experience.

To help you get prepared for a successful turkey hunt the Discovery Center will be hosting "Full Strut" on Saturday, March 16 from 10:00 AM–2:30 PM. This event will help you understand what type of equipment you need, types of calls and much more. There will be hands on activities for all ages to enjoy.

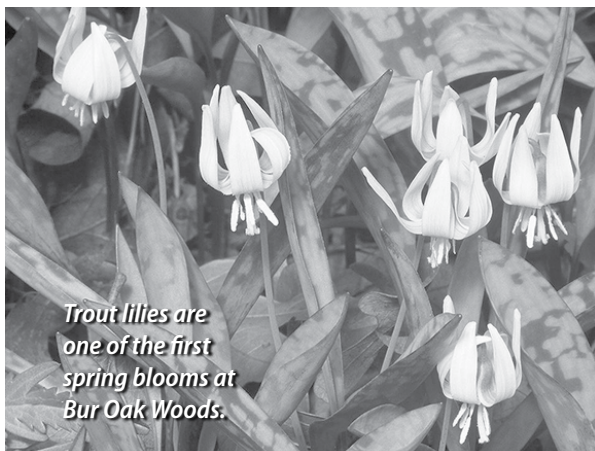
— Steve Jacobsen, Education Specialist

Spring awakens the woodland wildflowers



Dutchmen's breeches resemble tiny pantaloons hanging out to dry.

As the days begin to lengthen and warm, our local woodlands undergo a dramatic change. The browns and grays of winter make way for an explosion of color on the forest floor. Wildflowers that have been dormant most of the year begin to peek out from underneath the leaf litter. First, tiny green leaves make an appearance followed by a flood of spring blooms. The flowers that appear each spring on our woodland floors are called spring ephemerals. Although they don't last long, these fleeting displays of natural beauty are a strategy these plants have evolved to take advantage of the spring



Trout lilies are one of the first spring blooms at Burr Oak Woods.

sunlight reaching the forest floor before the leaves on the tree canopy above block out the light for the rest of the growing season.

In the Kansas City area the end of March and the first part of April is the best time to explore our local woodlands for an early view of this amazing natural display. Take a trip to Burr Oak Woods in Blue Springs to hike a trail and discover nature's early blooms. If you find what looks like tiny white pantaloons hanging out to dry, you have probably found a plant called Dutchman's breeches. A hillside of small five-petaled pinkish-white flowers means you have found a field of spring beauties. A few weeks into wildflower season you may find the delightfully sweet smelling blue phlox beginning to bloom. To help you on your spring wildflower exploration, pick up a good field guide such as *Missouri Wildflowers* by Edgar Denison, available at Burr Oak Woods and the Gorman Discovery Center or through the Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Shop at www.mdcnatureshop.com

Enjoy the beauty of Missouri's woodlands this spring with your family, but please remember that the best way to share these wildflowers is to leave them intact for others to enjoy. Take pictures, not petals. These plants have only a very short time to be pollinated and to produce seeds before their growing season ends. The joy that a walk in the woods on a warm spring day can provide is priceless - don't miss out on this spring sensory delight!

— Rebecca Miller,
Assistant Manager
Burr Oak Woods



Heritage Days

Come along on a journey through time as we explore Missouri's Heritage by reconnecting to our past. Learn skills early Missourians used for hunting, cooking and surviving the wilderness. Discover some of the plants and animals the Corps of Discovery encountered on their journey along the marvelous Missouri River. Increase your knowledge of famous people and events that have shaped our state. Festivities include demonstrations, hands-on activities and entertainment for the entire family. Learn from the past, care for the present and shape the future on **Saturday, May 4, 2013** at the **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center**.

Passport to Adventure kicks off at Bass Pro

Come on kids! Get your own Passport to Adventure Guide at the kick-off event at the Bass Pro Shop in Olathe, Kansas from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, March 23**. Discover adventures that await you at local history, science and nature centers right here in your own backyard. Grab your parents and your "Passport to Adventure" guide and begin your journey to explore Kansas City. Visit a participating site, answer the question in the guide and get excited because you are in store for a great adventure hunt! Those who complete their entire passport adventure will receive a special prize!